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Agenda item 141

Financing of the United Nations Mission in Sierra Leone

Report of the Fifth Committee

Rapporteur: Mr. Santiago Wins (Uruguay)

I. Introduction

1. The previous recommendation made by the Fifth Committee to the General Assembly under agenda item 141 appears in the report of the Committee contained in document A/56/712.

2. The Fifth Committee resumed its consideration of the item at its 54th, 55th and 60th meetings, on 13 and 15 May and 17 June 2002. Statements and observations made in the course of the Committee's consideration of the item are reflected in the relevant summary records (A/C.5/56/SR.54, 55 and 60).

3. For its consideration of the item, the Committee had before it the following documents:

(a) Report of the Secretary-General concerning the financial performance of the United Nations Mission in Sierra Leone for the period from 1 July 2000 to 30 June 2001 (A/56/833);

(b) Report of the Secretary-General containing the budget for the United Nations Mission in Sierra Leone for the period from 1 July 2002 to 30 June 2003 (A/56/855);

(c) Reports of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions (A/56/887 and Add. 3).

II. Consideration of draft resolution A/C.5/56/L.68

4. At the 60th meeting, on 17 June, the representative of Uruguay, Rapporteur of the Committee and coordinator of the informal consultations on the item, introduced, on behalf of the Chairman, a draft resolution entitled "Financing of the United Nations Mission in Sierra Leone" (A/C.5/56/L.68).

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5. At the same meeting, the Committee adopted draft resolution A/C.5/56/L.68 without a vote (see para. 7).

6. At the same meeting, after the adoption of the draft resolution, the representative of Japan made a statement.

III. Recommendation of the Fifth Committee

7. The Fifth Committee recommends to the General Assembly the adoption of the following draft resolution:

Financing of the United Nations Mission in Sierra Leone

The General Assembly,

Having considered the reports of the Secretary-General on the financing of the United Nations Mission in Sierra Leone[1] and the related reports of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions,[2]

Bearing in mind Security Council resolution 1270 (1999) of 22 October 1999, regarding the establishment of the United Nations Mission in Sierra Leone, and the subsequent resolutions by which the Council revised and extended the mandate of the Mission, the latest of which was resolution 1400 (2002) of 28 March 2002,

Recalling its resolution 53/29 of 20 November 1998 on the financing of the United Nations Observer Mission in Sierra Leone and subsequent resolutions on the financing of the United Nations Mission in Sierra Leone, the latest of which was resolution 56/251 of 24 December 2001,

Reaffirming the general principles underlying the financing of United Nations peacekeeping operations, as stated in General Assembly resolutions 1874 (S-IV) of 27 June 1963, 3101 (XXVIII) of 11 December 1973 and 55/235 of 23 December 2000,

Noting with appreciation that voluntary contributions have been made to the Mission,

Mindful of the fact that it is essential to provide the Mission with the necessary financial resources to enable it to fulfil its responsibilities under the relevant resolutions of the Security Council,

1. *Takes note* of the status of contributions to the United Nations Observer Mission in Sierra Leone and the United Nations Mission in Sierra Leone as at 30 April 2002, including the contributions outstanding in the amount of 120.6 million United States dollars, representing some 9 per cent of the total assessed contributions, notes with concern that only thirty-six Member States have paid their assessed contributions in full, and urges all other Member States, in particular those in arrears, to ensure payment of their outstanding assessed contributions;

2. *Expresses its appreciation* to those Member States which have paid their assessed contributions in full and on time, and urges all other Member States to

[1] A/56/833 and A/56/855.

[2] A/56/887 and Add.3.

make every possible effort to ensure payment of their assessed contributions to the United Nations Mission in Sierra Leone in full and on time;

3. *Expresses concern* about the financial situation with regard to peacekeeping activities, in particular as regards the reimbursements to troop contributors that bear additional burdens owing to overdue payments by Member States of their assessments;

4. *Also expresses concern* at the delay experienced by the Secretary-General in deploying and providing adequate resources to some recent peacekeeping missions, in particular those in Africa;

5. *Emphasizes* that all future and existing peacekeeping missions shall be given equal and non-discriminatory treatment in respect of financial and administrative arrangements;

6. *Also emphasizes* that all peacekeeping missions shall be provided with adequate resources for the effective and efficient discharge of their respective mandates;

7. *Reiterates its request* to the Secretary-General to make the fullest possible use of facilities and equipment at the United Nations Logistics Base at Brindisi, Italy, in order to minimize the costs of procurement for the Mission;

8. *Endorses* the conclusions and recommendations contained in the report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions,[3] and requests the Secretary-General to ensure their full implementation;

9. *Requests* the Secretary-General to take all necessary action to ensure that the Mission is administered with a maximum of efficiency and economy;

10. *Also requests* the Secretary-General to ensure that no commercial alternative for transportation for official purposes is available before contracting services for the provision of executive jets;

11. *Further requests* the Secretary-General, in order to reduce the cost of employing General Service staff, to continue efforts to recruit local staff for the Mission against General Service posts, commensurate with the requirements of the Mission;

Performance report for the period from 1 July 2000 to 30 June 2001

12. *Takes note* of the financial performance report of the Mission for the period from 1 July 2000 to 30 June 2001;[4]

13. *Decides* to reduce the appropriation authorized for the United Nations Mission in Sierra Leone for the period from 1 July 2000 to 30 June 2001 under the terms of General Assembly resolutions 54/241 B of 15 June 2000 and 55/251 A of 12 April 2001 from 577,672,651 dollars to 541,035,851 dollars, the amount apportioned among Member States in respect of the same period;

[3] A/56/887/Add.3.
[4] A/56/833.

14. *Also decides* to approve the increase in the estimated staff assessment income for the period from 1 July 2000 to 30 June 2001 from 7,342,790 dollars to 7,598,190 dollars;

Budget estimates for the period from 1 July 2002 to 30 June 2003

15. *Decides* to appropriate to the Special Account for the United Nations Mission in Sierra Leone the amount of 699,838,300 dollars for the period from 1 July 2002 to 30 June 2003, inclusive of 669,476,400 dollars for the maintenance of the Mission, 27,113,600 dollars for the support account for peacekeeping operations and 3,248,300 dollars for the United Nations Logistics Base;

Financing of the appropriation

16. *Also decides* to apportion among Member States the amount of 532,469,200 dollars at a monthly rate of 44,372,433 dollars, in accordance with the levels set out in General Assembly resolution 55/235 of 23 December 2000, as adjusted by the Assembly in its resolution 55/236 of the same date, and taking into account the scale of assessments for 2002 and 2003 as set out in its resolution 55/5 B also of the same date, subject to a decision of the Security Council to extend the mandate of the Mission;

17. *Further decides* that, in accordance with the provisions of its resolution 973 (X) of 15 December 1955, there shall be set off against the apportionment among Member States, as provided for in paragraph 16 above, their respective share in the Tax Equalization Fund of 9,004,200 dollars for the period from 1 July 2002 to 30 June 2003, at a monthly rate of 750,350 dollars, comprising the estimated staff assessment income of 5,022,900 dollars approved for the Mission for the period from 1 July 2002 to 30 June 2003, the prorated share of 3,692,100 dollars of the estimated staff assessment income approved for the support account for the period from 1 July 2002 to 30 June 2003 and the increase in staff assessment income of that account for the period from 1 July 2000 to 30 June 2001, and the prorated share of 289,200 dollars of the estimated staff assessment income approved for the United Nations Logistics Base for the period from 1 July 2002 to 30 June 2003 and the reduction in staff assessment income of that account for the period from 1 July 2000 to 30 June 2001;

18. *Decides* that for Member States that have fulfilled their financial obligations to the Mission, there shall be set off against the apportionment, as provided for in paragraph 16 above, their respective share of the unencumbered balance of 20,301,551 dollars and their respective share of other income of 14,650,000 dollars in respect of the financial period ended 30 June 2001, in accordance with the levels set out in General Assembly resolution 55/235, as adjusted by the Assembly in its resolution 55/236, and taking into account the scale of assessments for the year 2001, as set out in its resolution 55/5 B;

19. *Also decides* that for Member States that have not fulfilled their financial obligations to the Mission, their respective share of the unencumbered balance of 20,301,551 dollars and other income of 14,650,000 dollars in respect of the financial period ended 30 June 2001 shall be set off against their outstanding obligations in accordance with the scheme set out in paragraph 18 above;

20. *Further decides* that the increase in the staff assessment income of 192,600 dollars in respect of the financial period ended 30 June 2001 shall be set off against the credits from the unencumbered balance referred to in paragraphs 18 and 19 above;

21. *Emphasizes* that no peacekeeping mission shall be financed by borrowing funds from other active peacekeeping missions;

22. *Encourages* the Secretary-General to continue to take additional measures to ensure the safety and security of all personnel under the auspices of the United Nations participating in the Mission;

23. *Invites* voluntary contributions to the Mission in cash and in the form of services and supplies acceptable to the Secretary-General, to be administered, as appropriate, in accordance with the procedure and practices established by the General Assembly;

24. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its fifty-seventh session the item entitled "Financing of the United Nations Mission in Sierra Leone".